

## 2nd Pastor FR. PATRICK FREITAS 1976-1979



Patrick Freitas was born on Maui in December 1938. After studying for the priesthood, he was ordained by Bishop Sweeney in July 1965. Shortly after his ordination, he was assigned as our first ever Associate Pastor. During his first year, most of his work was in the area of religious education. After two years, he departed the parish with a new assignment to Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pearl City in June 1967.

He returned in July 1975, serving again as an associate pastor together with Fr. Jim Drew. Fr. Freitas felt that the three main priorities of the parish administration were: liturgical prayer, lay participation and leadership, and religious education. He was very knowledgeable about Vatican II and sensitive to the need of educating parishioners on the changes. He is remembered for instructing the whole assemble in how to receive the Eucharist in our hands and from the cup. Each parishioner had to go up to the main aisle to the foot of the altar to practice extending their hands to him. One Sunday morning he invited anyone who was interested in being a Eucharistic Minister to make an appointment for an interview with him. A year later in 1976, when Fr. Read retired, Fr. Freitas became the second pastor of the parish and remained for the next three years. He departed the parish in 1979.

In 2007, while in retirement, Father Freitas began negotiations with the Miyamoto family to sell the land under St. Rita Church on Maui to the Roman Catholic Church. On December 12, 2012 they did for \$430,000.

Unfortunately, Parkinson's disease has turned Father Patrick Freitas' retirement from an active island-hopping ministry to a daily solitary "prayer of welcoming."